

Message Text

SECRET

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11

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-07 SP-03 SS-20 RSC-01

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00 MC-02 ACDA-19 OMB-01

AID-20 DRC-01 /133 W

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R 230818Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9669

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY SANAA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

COMIDEASTFOR

USCINCEUR

S E C R E T KUWAIT 2054

FROM QUINLAN MUSCAT

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, MU, IR

SUBJ: IRANIAN MILITARY AID TO OMAN

REF: KUWAIT 1799

1. IRANIAN MILITARY MISSION VERY RECENTLY LANDED UNANNOUNCED AT MIDWAY AIRFIELD IN DHOFAR. COMMANDING OFFICER GENERAL CREASEY IS MAKING QUICK TRIP TO DHOFAR THIS WEEK. I EXPECT SEE HIM ON HIS RETURN MAY 25 OR 26 FOR AUTHORITATIVE SITUATION REPORT ON IRANIAN AID. MEANWHILE, BRITISH CHARGE TATEHAM SAYS THAT SULTAN'S ARMED FORCES HAS OFFICIALLY REQUESTED HMG TO MAKE AVAILABLE FUEL SUPPLY FOR IRANIAN F-5'S AT MASIRAH. HMG IS PREPARING TO SEND LOGISTICAL MISSION TO MASIRAH TO CONSIDER HOW MEET REQUEST, BUT AT THE MOMENT HAS NOT BEEN TOLD HOW MANY F-5'S, OR WHEN THEY WOULD ARRIVE.

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2. ASKED WHETHER BRITISH TREATY RIGHTS INVOLVED, TATEHAM SAID HE NOT SURE; QUESTION WAS BASICALLY POLITICAL. IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT IF NOT IMPOSSIBLE POLITICALLY TO REFUSE OMANI OR ALLIED USE OF MASIRAH BUT BRITISH FRANKLY GREATLY RELIEVED THAT SHORTER RANGE F-5 FIGHTERS WILL BE USED INSTEAD OF PHANTOMS.

3. PLANS GOING AHEAD RAPIDLY FOR RUNWAY CONSTRUCTION AT MIDWAY AND LATEST DEADLINE FOR COMPLETION (SET BY SULTAN) IS END OF YEAR. NO INFO ON ANY OTHER AIR SUPPORT FACILITIES MIDWAY OR ELSEWHERE.

4. TATEHAM COMMENTED THAT IRANIAN GOVERNMENT VERY CLOSE-MOUTHED WITH BRITISH EMBASSY TEHRAN, EVEN THOUGH GENERAL CREASEY CALLED ON BRITISH AMBASSADOR IN TEHRAN DURING HIS LAST VISIT, PRESUMABLY TO REMIND IRANIANS THEY MIGHT AS WELL LEVEL WITH BRITISH IN TEHRAN. TATEHAM ASKED THAT ABOVE INFORMATION BE TREATED AS SENSITIVE, ESPECIALLY IN TEHRAN.
STOLTZFUS

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